

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration. Claim 7 is added herein. Support for claim 7 may be found in claim 5 as filed originally. Further reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Response to Arguments:

The Applicants appreciate the consideration given to their arguments. The Applicants, however, are disappointed that their arguments were not found to be persuasive. The final Office Action asserts in section 5, at page 3 that:

To the extent that applicant is arguing that the references applied in the rejection fail to use the same names for certain elements as the names used by applicant, the argument is irrelevant, as it is noted that the disclosure in a reference must show the claimed elements arranged in the same order as in the claims, but need not be in the identical words as used in the claims in order to be anticipatory. See *In re Bond*, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

The Applicants agree that, in order to anticipate the claims, Anderson would need to show the claimed elements arranged in the same order as they are recited in the claims. The Applicants are not simply arguing that Anderson fails to use the same *names* for certain elements as the names used by Applicants. The Applicants, rather, are arguing that Anderson does not show the claimed elements arranged in the same order as they are recited in the claims at *all*, regardless of whether Anderson called them by the same names or not. Therefore, the extent of our arguments was not simply that Anderson fails to use the same names for certain elements as the names used by applicant, but rather that Anderson doesn't show the claimed elements arranged in the same order of the claims at all.

In sections 6, 7, and 8, at page 4 the final Office Action refers to claims 1-5 of Anderson as showing the claimed elements arranged in the same order of the claims. The Applicants have reviewed claims 1-5 of Anderson carefully, however, and must continue to insist that they neither show an "auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason," "embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," or "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed." Claim 1 of Anderson, for example, recites:

1. A method for storing documents and information associated with said documents, said method comprising the steps of:

converting a document to a document data stream, said document data stream comprised of document data and a plurality of structured fields;
converting information associated with said document to an information data stream;
combining said document data stream with said information data stream to form a combined data stream, leaving said document data in said combined data stream unchanged;
modifying at least one of said structured fields in said combined data stream by adding an include structure to indicate that said information data stream has been included in said combined data stream; and
storing said combined data stream.

Claim 1 may thus be seen to relate to a method for storing documents and information associated with said documents by modifying at least one of said structured fields in said combined data stream by adding an include structure to indicate that said information data stream has been included in said combined data stream. No structure analogous to an "auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason," "embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," or "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed," appears in claim 1 of Anderson, whether literally or synonymously, at all.

Claim 2 of Anderson, similarly, recites:

2. A method as in claim 1 wherein a first of said structured fields is associated with a first portion of said information data stream, and said first structured field indicates whether said first portion of said information data stream is an annotation of said document data stream or a redaction of said document data stream.

Claim 2 of Anderson may thus also be seen to relate to the method for storing documents and information associated with said documents of claim 1. No structure analogous to an "auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason," "embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," or "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed," appears in claim 2 of Anderson, whether literally or synonymously, at all.

Claim 3 of Anderson, similarly, recites:

3. A method as in claim 1 wherein:
a first group of said plurality of structured fields comprises a plurality of "begin

flags", each of said flags indicating the beginning of a portion of said document data stream corresponding to the beginning of a portion of said document; a second group of said plurality of said structured fields comprises a plurality of "end flags", each of said end flags indicating the end of a portion of said document data stream corresponding to the end of a portion of said document; a third group of said plurality of structured fields being "indicator flags", each of said indicator flags being associated with one of said beginning flags and one of said end flags, said indicator flags indicating specific conditions; and said modification of at least one of said structured fields comprising modifying a first of said indicator flags, said first indicator flag being associated with a first of said beginning flags and a first of said end flags, said modified indicator flags indicating that a first portion of said information data stream is to be associated with said portion of said document data stream corresponding to said first beginning flag and said first end flag.

Claim 3 of Anderson may thus also be seen to relate to the method for storing documents and information associated with said documents of claim 1. No structure analogous to an "auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason," "embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," or "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed," appears in claim 3 of Anderson, whether literally or synonymously, at all.

Claim 4 of Anderson, similarly, recites:

4. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein said modified first indicator flag additionally indicates a security level of said first portion of said information data stream.

Claim 4 of Anderson may thus also be seen to relate to the method for storing documents and information associated with said documents of claim 1. No structure analogous to an "auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason," "embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," or "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed," appears in claim 4 of Anderson, whether literally or synonymously, at all.

Claim 5 of Anderson, similarly, recites:

5. A method as defined in claim 3 wherein said modified indicator flags additionally indicate the location of said associated information within said first portion of said information data stream.

Claim 5 of Anderson may thus also be seen to relate to the method for storing documents and information associated with said documents of claim 1. No structure analogous to an "auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason," "embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," or "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed," appears in claim 5 of Anderson, whether literally or synonymously, at all.

The Applicants thus reiterate their request for some showing as to where in Anderson elements analogous to those of the claimed invention might appear. In the alternative, the Applicants request respectfully that the rejections of claims 1-6 as anticipated by Anderson be withdrawn. Further reconsideration is thus requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent No. 5,581,682 to Anderson et al., (hereinafter "Anderson"). The rejection is traversed.

According to at least one embodiment of the invention, a document which is to be opened to the public, but which contains information that should be hidden, may be processed or edited automatically into content which is appropriate for disclosing to the public.

In at least one embodiment, non-disclosure information for managing character strings which should not be made public and reasons for their not being made public are stored in a dictionary in such a manner as to correspond to each other. Character strings that should be forcedly made public and reasons for being forcedly made public are also stored in a dictionary in such a manner as to correspond to each other. A non-disclosure tag, reasons for not being made public, a forcedly disclosing tag, and reasons for being forcedly made public are embedded in the document, and each character string assigned with a non-disclosure tag is replaced with a meaningless character string when the document is processed or edited automatically into content which is appropriate for disclosing to the public.

Claims 1 and 5, in particular, recite,

An auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason.

Anderson, on the other hand, neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "an auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason," as recited in claims 1 and 5. As Anderson, rather, describes at column 5, lines 44-57,

The method of the invention uses the forms overlay structures in order to store the data. The reference structure within the document is extended to contain specific information describing the referenced object as an annotation object, and providing an annotation level associated with this object. The overlay object is extended to provide the control information specifying whether this overlay is to be merged in a transparent or opaque manner when applying the page. Since annotation overlays usually apply to a single page, as opposed to form overlays which are typically applicable to all instances of a particular page type, the overlays are contained within the structure of the page to which they apply, removing the need to manage the annotation.

Thus, Anderson uses the forms overlay structures in order to store the data. This is to be contrasted with claims 1 and 5, which recite, "an auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason."

Claims 1 and 5 recite further,

Embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document.

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," as recited in claims 1 and 5, either. In Anderson, rather, the reference structure within the document is extended to contain specific information describing the referenced object as an annotation object, and providing an annotation level associated with this object.

Finally, claims 1 and 5 recite,

Replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed.

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed," as recited in claims 1 and 5, either. In Anderson, rather, the overlays are contained within the structure of the page to which they apply, removing the need to manage the annotation. Claims 1 and 5 are thus submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2 and 6 depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively, and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 2 and 6 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 6 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 3 and 4:

Claim 3 recites,

A dictionary which manages a character string of compulsory disclosure attaching with its corresponding reason.

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a dictionary which manages a character string of compulsory disclosure attaching with its corresponding reason," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 3 recite further,

Embedding the tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document.

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "embedding the tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

Finally, claim 3 recites,

Replacing the character string which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string.

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1. Claim 3 is thus submitted to be allowable for at least those reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 4 depends from claims 3 and adds further distinguishing elements. Claim 4 is thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 is earnestly solicited.

New Claim 7:

New claim 7 recites:

Replacing the character string of non-disclosure with a meaningless character string according to said reason, when there is said character string of non-disclosure in said dictionary.

None of the cited references teach, disclose, or suggest "replacing the character string of non-disclosure with a meaningless character string according to said reason, when there is said character string of non-disclosure in said dictionary." Claim 7 is thus believed to be allowable.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 1-7 are allowable over the cited references. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

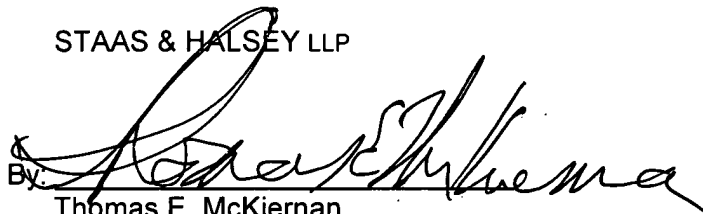
Respectfully submitted,

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